

MI Downing UK Micro-Cap Growth Fund

August
2017



About the Fund

MI Downing UK Micro-Cap Growth Fund ("the Fund") invests in a concentrated portfolio of between 25-30 UK companies within the Numis Smaller Companies Indices - typically those with market capitalisations between £20 million and £150 million.

The Fund seeks to generate capital growth, whilst retaining a strong focus on capital preservation. The Fund aims to outperform returns from other UK small-cap equity funds by selecting investments that the Manager believes are undervalued by the market.

Why Downing micro cap?

- ▶ Experienced & qualified team headed by Judith MacKenzie - Citywire A¹ and F.E. Three Crown² rated.
- ▶ Private equity approach to micro cap companies, drawing on Downing's private equity and venture capital heritage.
- ▶ Investment Committee oversight provides access to 100+ years of investment experience.
- ▶ Value strategy with rigorous bottom up approach.
- ▶ Exhaustive diligence process that can take up to 18 months.
- ▶ Concentrated portfolio of 25 to 30 investments which we believe provides diversification.
- ▶ Access to strategic investments.
- ▶ Only invests in profitable businesses with strong management teams and a sustainable competitive advantage.

¹Source: Citywire (for the three year risk adjusted performance 31/07/2014 - 31/07/2017)

²Source: Trustnet/F.E (for the three year period to 31/07/2017)

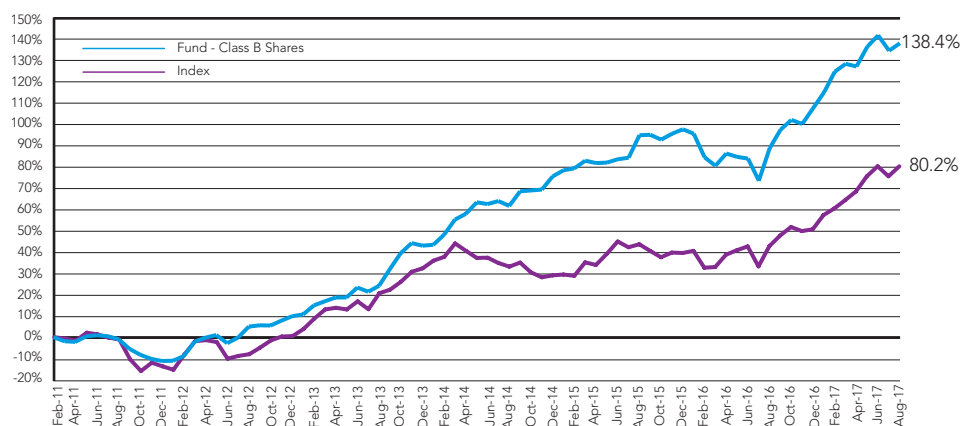
Market commentary

In the month, the Fund returned 1.5% compared to the benchmark's 2.7%. Positive contributors to performance included Conviviality Plc (up 24.9%) and Science in Sport Plc (up 15.8%). Detractors included Pennant International Group Plc (down 13.9%) and Universe Group Plc (down 12.5%).

Conviviality, the UK's leading independent wholesaler and distributor of alcohol, reported a strong set of results in the month. Revenue increased 85% to over £1 billion due to the full-year impact of acquiring Matthew Clark and Bibendum. Organic revenue growth was 5.8%. At the bottom line, the company generated £18.5 million of profit after tax, a 249% uplift on the prior year. Science in Sport, a leading provider of sports nutrition products, announced a positive trading update indicating continued sales growth (up 28% for the six months ended 30 June 2017), and 78% growth in their e-commerce platform across all markets.

Despite an upbeat trading update from Pennant, the supplier of integrated training and support solutions, which highlighted a number of new contracts and a healthy order book of £42 million, we believe the shares sold off as investors chose to take profits following a strong share price run. Universe Group, a leading developer and supplier of point-of-sale, payment and on-line loyalty systems, announced the appointment of a new Chief Financial Officer, Daryl Paton. Otherwise, there was no new updates in the month to affect the share price.

Cumulative performance under Downing management



The graph shows the cumulative performance under Downing management (since Feb 2011)

Cumulative performance - Class B Shares (%)							
	1m	3m	6m	YTD	1y	3y	5y
Fund	1.49	0.71	5.99	10.78	26.17	47.33	127.16
Index	2.65	2.65	12.34	14.52	26.27	35.33	95.93

Discrete performance - Class B Shares (%)					
	31/07/2016 31/07/2017	31/07/2015 31/07/2016	31/07/2014 31/07/2015	31/07/2013 31/07/2014	31/07/2012 31/07/2013
Fund	26.17	-3.15	20.57	30.34	18.29
Index	26.27	-0.63	7.84	10.41	31.13

Index: Numis Smaller Companies Index Plus AIM Excluding Investment Trusts. Source of all Fund data is Maitland Institutional Services, source of all index data is Thomson Reuters. The Index does not reflect fees, brokerage commissions, taxes or other expenses of investing. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. **Downing is responsible for Fund performance from 4 Feb 2011, the effective date of the investment management mandate. Please note that past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.**

Portfolio by sector*



3.66%	Telecom services	14.42%	Electronic & electrical equipment
3.78%	IT hardware	2.24%	Real estate
3.42%	Pharmaceuticals	11.86%	Software & computer services
6.22%	Support services	2.60%	Personal care & household products
11.97%	Cash	7.23%	Construction & building
18.19%	Food producers & processors	3.84%	Oil & gas
6.95%	General retailers	3.62%	Transport

Portfolio by company size*



Market cap bands	
50.30%	£0m - £50m
10.99%	£50m - £100m
17.77%	£100m - £150m
0.00%	£150m - £200m
20.94%	£200m+

Top 5 portfolio holdings*

	% of Fund
Real Good Food PLC	8.72**
Redhall Group PLC	7.23
Conviviality PLC	5.11
Pennant International Group PLC	4.99
Science in Sport PLC	4.89

*Source: Maitland Institutional Services

As at 31 July 2017

**Holding includes an 2.39% equity and 6.33% debt split

Lead Fund Manager: Judith MacKenzie

Judith is a Partner at Downing, having joined in 2009. Previously, she was a Partner at Acuity Capital, managing AIM-quoted VCT & IHT investments and the CF Acuity RAM Fund.

Prior to this, Judith spent seven years as a senior investment manager with Aberdeen Asset Management Growth Capital, as co-Manager of the five Aberdeen VCTs, investing in both public and private companies.

She has held various non-executive and advisory roles in Scottish Government and private companies, and is a Fellow of the Securities Institute.

Key facts as at 31 July 2017

Structure

London listed Open Ended Investment Company (OEIC), established as a "UCITS scheme".

Incorporation date & date of transfer to Downing and change of ACD

September 2008 / February 2011

Fund size

(B and C Share Class combined)
£31.8m

Share price

Class B 218.55p
Class C 138.77p

Number of holdings

27*

Dividends

Accumulation only

Liquidity

Daily pricing and daily dealing

ISIN codes:

B Accumulation GB00B2403R79
C Accumulation GB00B7SB5C00

*This does not include the two holdings which have been written down to zero.

Contact details

Manager

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Tel: 020 7416 7780

Authorised Corporate Director

Maitland Institutional Services Ltd
Springfield Lodge, Colchester Road
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 5PW
Dealing: 034 5305 4215
www.maitlandgroup.com

Minimum initial investment

B Accumulation - £1,000
C Accumulation - £1,000

B Share and C Share class monthly savings plan available. Monthly contributions of £100 can be made via standing order on the first business day of each month.

Fund charges

Initial charges

B & C Accumulation: 5.00%

Ongoing charges

B Accumulation: 1.33%
C Accumulation: 1.08%

Ongoing charges are based on expenses, including the annual management charge, for the year ending 31 January 2017. These figures may vary. It excludes portfolio transaction costs.

Management charge

B Accumulation = 1.00% per annum
C Accumulation = 0.75% per annum

Performance charge

There are performance fees on the C Share class only. Full details can be found in the Key Investor Information Document.

How to apply

Tel: 020 7630 3319
Visit www.downing.co.uk to access the Application Form

Platforms hosting the Fund

A J Bell	James Hay
Aegon	Novia Global
Ascentric	Novia Financial
Aviva	Nucleus Financial
Cofunds Institutional	SEI Investments
Cofunds Retail	Standard Life
Hargreaves Lansdown	Transact

Risk warning: your capital is at risk. Investments & the income derived from them can fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the full amount invested. Investments in smaller companies will normally involve greater risk or volatility than investments in larger, more established companies. Performance figures above are taken from daily valuations provided by Maitland Institutional Services. Downing is responsible for Fund performance from 4 February 2011, the effective date of the investment mandate. Return is the total return (value of the investments plus cash including income after all expenses and charges), ignoring taxation. Please note that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

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